

PIONEER HARDSHIP.

Hard Work and Perils of the West. People Who settled the Western Country.

The unpleasant and often perilous journey that the early settlers of the west were able to take to carry their produce to market or to procure provisions, are described in "Pioneer of the West." The writer tells of one occasion when he and his 12-year-old son were going to mill. There was a good deal of snow on the ground, and the weather was intensely cold.

We were plodding along slowly behind the wagon up over the hills to the north and on the divide, says the author. The snow was six or seven inches deep, and the track had not been broken; for it was a road seldom traveled, there being no settlers after we got up out of the little valley until we came near Oakdale, away into the adjoining county. Of course, we used to call them roads; but they were merely the grass and turf worn away where the horses or oxen walked, with a ridge between two narrow black lines like a couple of snakes stretching and winding across series of open prairie.

The snow made it very hard to walk, and it was too cold to ride. We tried to walk in the tracks of the oxen, but that made it still harder. We had gone but a few miles when our hands became so completely numb that all feeling left them. We usually made our own mittens out of old cloth, of which we would have two or three pairs sometimes, one over another. But for all that it was the hardest thing possible, sometimes, to keep them from freezing.

"As the morning wore away we began to feel hungry, and I never forgot the slight pligh we were in. We had along with us some dry soda-biscuits cut in two, with a little butter spread between, in a common flour-bag. They occupied but a small space, of course, so we tied the bag in a knot instead of tying it with a string. We tried to untie it, but could not do so with our mittens on, and cold as it was we took them off, but not without some difficulty, for our hands were nearly closed and neither of us seemed to have the least use of them. We fumbled and fumbled for awhile, but finding that we could not do it that way we held down the bag and pulled the knot apart.

Four of the biscuits, which rattled almost like so many flint pebbles, we held one up between our two fists, and gnawed away at it that way. "They being no settlers for many miles, there was no place that we could put in and stay for a time, and get thawed out," as we used to say. And that was the hardest part of it; for one might manage to endure such a severe strain for an hour or so, or for several hours; but when it had to be borne a whole day, and perhaps away into the night, it took considerable courage to keep up."

CRIMINALS' DEFENSES.

Defenders Against the Law Seldom Offer New Pleas in Their Own Behalf.

"The world," said one of the most distinguished criminal lawyers at the Chicago bar the other day, relates the Tribune, "has moved in everything except defenses. My meaning is not clear; I mean to say that during the last hundred years, or perhaps three or four hundred years, the only class which has not progressed with the rest of the world is the criminal class.

"They have improved their appliances, I know. Burglars' tools are better made now than they used to be. Criminals know their trade better, but once let them fall into the hands of the police and they are as helpless as they would have been had they been arrested during the nineteenth or even the eighteenth century.

"The only three defenses that are used to any extent are those showmen ones, the alibi, mistaken identity and insanity. Sit in any of the court-rooms in the criminal court building on the North side and listen to the defenses that are made.

"Examine these cases where the prisoner is guilty. How does he defend himself? He tries to prove that he was not at the place where the crime was committed, or he puts in the plea of insanity, or he tries to prove that the witnesses against him should not believe their own eyes and that they look somebody else for him. "Judges on the bench have told me they would be started out of their composure if a professional criminal was to try any other defense.

"The alibi is the favorite. It is a saying in one part of town that a good alibi can be bought for \$25. Perhaps it is the cheapness that recommends it, but we lawyers are ever convinced."

Geographical Homicide.

An Italian hobo has lately had the courtyard of his home paved with slabs of marble granite and other stone, every one of which has been brought from a different land—Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australia have all supplied materials for this curious mosaic, which is composed of over five hundred pieces engaged with the name of the country from which it came.

German Southwest Africa.

Germany Southwest Africa, being recommended by German physicians as a permanent home for convalescents and young men with rheumatism in the shoulder. The doctors are now there in southern California, the air pure and dry, the sea always blue, and the temperature moderate and inviting to life outdoors.

Hitchhiker Cured by Ointment.

A CAIRO, Egypt, young woman has just been cured of the chronic hiccups by an ointment. The trouble was with her eyes—a severe case of astigmatism.

ABOUT PUBLIC HYGIENE.]

Measures Which Are Necessary for the Preservation of the People in Cities.

The importance of public hygiene lies in the dependence of the health of each one to a greater or less extent upon that of his neighbor. A single person ill with a contagious disease might, unless precautions were taken to prevent it, convey illness to scores, states Youth's Companion.

Efforts which improve the health and hygienic conditions of the dwellers in the slums are not philanthropy pure and simple, but are rather measures of protection for the health of the people at large.

The dirty and sunless hovels and tenements are properly considered lurking places of disease. Here diseases find their last resorts when exterminated from more hygienic situations, and hence they issue when conditions are again favorable for their spread.

Many causes operate to spread disease. Weather conditions may prepare the way. The common use by all of the every-day means of conveyance is doubtless rightly recognized as a factor of large importance in the dissemination of disease. The laws framed with a view to enforcing cleanliness in street cars, ferries and railway cars cannot be too stringently observed. It is not an infringement of the rights of personal liberty to enforce a law, the fulfillment of which is but one's rightful duty to his neighbor.

A model city government aims to wipe out the pest spots within its borders and to prohibit the massing of tenement buildings, in which the provisions for sunlight and air are deficient, as well as the dangerous overcrowding of the dwellers within them. A city government, however, can do little to bring about ideal conditions without a thorough awakening of public spirit. The best-framed laws are inoperative unless the vital necessity for their enforcement is recognized.

It is significant that a recommendation from a commercial board in one of our large cities for the establishment of a hospital for consumptives bears at the same time a recommendation for the enactment of a law for the improvement of public buildings.

When public opinion shall have regulated a custom which in time will come to be regarded as barbarous, as it is now known to be inimical to public health, an important factor in the spread of disease will have been eliminated.

HAS NEVER BEEN CONQUERED.

Little Japan Has Beaten the Very Hordes That Have Triumphed Over Russia.

It should be remembered that Japan has never been conquered. It should also be remembered that a foot of her soil has never been held by an enemy for an appreciable time. It should also be remembered that the very hordes that Genghis-Khan and his predecessors and successors led in triumph against Russia and central Europe, and which overthrew Persia and India and Afghanistan and Russia and Hungary, were easily beaten by the Japanese, writes the author of "Little Japan," in Gurnon's Magazine. It has been said that the Japanese have never fought a serious war with a white nation, and are an unknown quantity. It may be said with equal truth that Russia has never tamed the Japanese. In war, and that therefore the Russians in a conflict with the Japanese are an unknown quantity. But there is abundant material for estimating the strength on sea and land of these two peoples. The Japanese in their conflict with China in 1894 proved themselves superior to the Chinese, in a greater degree than the Russians or any European soldiers have ever proved themselves superior to the Chinese. Again in the international extravaganza, known as the marching on Peking, the Japanese soldiers marched and fought side by side with the picked soldiery of Europe and America. In that experience they showed themselves superior to the American and European troops in every respect, and almost every western commander engaged in the expeditions against the Chinese "Boxers," admitted that they were at least the equal, if not the superior, of all other soldiers engaged in the expedition.

City Man in a Quandary.

A New York man tells of two green youths of his acquaintance who having hired a horse and trap for a day out in the country, were confronted with the bewildering problem of returning to the animal. The horse, however, being difficult, for the horse made no response whatever to their overtures.

Wife's Trouble.

"Wait for what?" demanded the other. "For the horse to yawn," replied his companion.

Times for Carpet Weavers.

A Liverpool, England, Dr. Mary Talbot, says the position of a law making the wearing of a corset by any woman under 18 an offense punishable by three months imprisonment if she is of age and a fine of £10 to £20 imposed on her parents or guardians if she is under age.

Japanese Convicts.

The value of work done by convicts throughout Japan is estimated at 1,000,000 yen, while the state had to pay 1,000,000 yen for supporting the convicts.

CURIOUS VIOLET RAY EFFECTS.

Beauties Wilting Poppies and Prevent Them from Withering Again Even in Sunlight.

While studying the effect of the violet and ultra-violet rays on plants, I discovered that these rays exerted a very unique and well-marked effect on the blossoms and foliage of the common field as well as the rarer perennial (celandine) poppy, says a writer in Scientific American.

One morning I cut some poppies for decorative purposes. An hour or so after they had been placed in a vase, I noticed that they had withered. I was in the act of removing them when my mother stopped me, saying: "Don't throw them out, they will come to life during the night and will be all right to-morrow morning."

I at once began a course of observations and experiments in order to discover, if possible, the cause for this seeming death and resurrection.

It was noticed that the withering process began the very moment the flower was separated from the parent plant; the petals losing stiffness and resilience and drooping toward the stem. This withering continued until, finally at the end of half or three-quarters of an hour, the blossom presented every appearance of being moribund.

The immediate withering indicated that whatever the cause for it, that cause was instantaneous in action and had to do with the vital principle of the plant itself; there was instant interference with the life-producing and life-sustaining functions.

It was soon determined that the hour of cutting (during daylight) had nothing to do with the production of the phenomena, for the flowers were gathered at daylight, sunrise 10 a. m., 12 m., 3 p. m. and 5 p. m., and it made no difference the withering process took place. Nor had temperature anything to do with it.

But flowers cut at night would not begin to wither until they were exposed to light. This indicated that light had something to do with causing this "quasi death," and if this hypothesis were true, the cause was, primarily, chemical in nature and occasioned in all probability by certain particular rays.

I had discovered in former experiments that violet and ultra-violet rays were not harmful to plant life, therefore thought it hardly necessary to repeat them in this instance; I was satisfied I had to deal with certain unique effects of the violet ray, and those still more wonderful rays—the ultra-violet.

When these rays are cut off from a poppy by a screen of orange or red "post office" paper, the blossom will not wither. The stem as well as the flower must be protected, otherwise withering will take place.

When a blossom is kept in the light (diffused daylight or electric light) for over 14 hours, it loses the power of "coming to life" again; a longer exposure invariably kills it beyond recovery.

The most noteworthy phenomena to be observed in the effects of the violet and ultra-violet rays on the poppy are their immobilizing properties. A poppy which has been subjected to the light and which has withered and then "resurrected" will remain unaffected when placed even in the direct rays of the sun.

TUNNELING THE HUDSON.

Several Attempts Have Been Made, Starting Back to the First in 1874.

The idea of tunneling the Hudson is by no means of recent birth. Several attempts in this direction have been made since 1874, when the first company to undertake the construction of a tunnel through the mountain, writes H. A. Dillingham Bruce, in "Lighting the Hudson" in Century. Little progress had been made, however, when, through an accident to the door of an air lock at a critical moment, the tunnel was flooded and a number of laborers were drowned. The water was pumped out and work resumed, but a bad leak once more caused a long delay. By this time something had been accomplished in both tunnels, but the company had now come to the end of its financial resources and was obliged to order a permanent cessation of work. The years passed, and eventually an English syndicate undertook to complete the tunnel. In their turn they found the task beyond their powers.

Finally Mr. Jacobs declared his willingness to begin where the others desisted, had withdrawn. He and his associates are now satisfied that they have solved the most difficult problem likely to arise in this or future subaqueous tunnel work. They have ascertained, proved that air, if properly reinforced, will serve to stem the most powerful of torrents, and the demonstration of this must be said to mark a milestone in the march of engineering.

"Too Careless."

A Jewish Prussian has hit upon a new system of safety deposit. A chest was made to a police station in the Faubourg Montmartre by a M. Samuel V. who came to claim a parcel of jewels which he had lost a month previously, valued at 100,000 francs. The commissary consulted his register. M. V.'s jewels had been found and taken to the station by M. Jean D. It is very curious, said an employee, these same jewels were lost on the same date last year and brought here by a M. Jean D.—and claimed a month afterward by M. Samuel V. "It is very curious! Too curious!" said the commissary. "Explain this strange coincidence." After a slight hesitation M. Samuel D. explained that, being afraid of burglars who were away for a month's holiday, he thought it would be difficult to find a more secure place to put them—Globe Penny.

TABLE MANNERS.

Little Bits of Information as to the Correct Thing in Etiquette.

If the function—luncheon or dinner—is one of ceremony, and gloves are worn at the table, they should be removed as soon as one is seated, and laid in the lap, says the American Queen. The napkin is unfolded to half its amplitude, and also laid across the lap. Gentlemen do not tuck their napkins in their waistcoats, no matter how convenient they may find such an arrangement.

The napkins which at dinner are placed upon the plates hold the dinner rolls or the slices of bread. Remove the bread as soon as seated, and place it at the left of the plate. The napkin, at the end of the meal, is left unfolded at the left side.

Bread is always broken in small pieces, never cut, and never crumpled into soup or sauce.

Soup is taken from the side of the spoon, which is filled by drawing it up from the opposite edge of the soup plate. Soup, of course, must be taken noiselessly. No one takes a second helping, or tips the plate to secure the last mouthful.

Fish, in days past, was taken with a fork, supplemented by a bit of bread; nowadays, a silver knife is allowable, forks and knives for fish being made of a special pattern. All vegetables are eaten with a fork; asparagus with a knife and fork, although it may be eaten with the fingers if one prefers to do so. A very safe rule, however, is never to touch any bit of food with the fingers if possible. Peaches and pears are peeled, cut in half, and then broken by the fork and thus eaten. An orange may be cut in half, and then eaten with an orange spoon, or it may be peeled entirely, then divided into sections and eaten with a fork.

All pies are eaten with a fork only, and most puddings, except custards, which require a spoon. Soft cakes are eaten with a fork, while jellies, no matter how hard, are eaten with a spoon.

There are dozens of people who would be mortally offended by the suggestion that they eat with a knife. But they must be careful how they thrust a knife into a dish of sweets or of any other delicacy.

These are pieces of bread or cake. This is a most unfortunate breach of table manners.

In using the knife and fork a movement of the wrist, and not of the elbow, is the proper thing; we occasionally see people using their elbows vigorously. The handle of the knife should be in the center of the hand, and no part of the hand should touch the knife above the handle. In using the fork, only the half of the handle is covered by the hand.

COLORS THAT WILL RULE.

Some Dress Hints for Feminine Followers of the Latest in Vogue.

"What will be the four most popular colors of the winter?" asked a woman of her modiste, according to the Brooklyn Eagle.

"Heather brown, hunter's green, old tree bark brown and ecru," replied the modiste unhesitatingly, "with dashes of red and blue and green trimmings."

"And what will be the most fashionable materials?" "The rough wools, until it is time to wear furs; then the smooth satiny cloths to better set off the furs. It will be an expensive winter for the well-dressed portion of femininity, for a woman must wear the heavy cloths now and the rough surfaces, while, later she must make an entire change to broadcloths and satin faves. That is, if she would be in the mode."

And, indeed, it seems as if woman must be perpetually making changes in her wardrobe. For no sooner does she get settled in style and fitted out in gowns, than something new comes along which absolutely demands attention and a change.

The house which was trying to go out of style is now trying to get back in. And it is astounding, for every other gown has a nounce set upon the skirt. But it is done in a new way. The nounce, instead of being added to the skirt, is so arranged that it seems to be a part of the skirt, lengthening it, instead of merely acting as the trimmings.

When the very rough wools are worn the house is sometimes cut a different way of the goods, and, so, it looks quite another material and very pretty it is with its contrast of color and grain. The camel's hair goods and the heavier surface sometimes have a bias texture. And one gown a silky, suede colored shawl had a drape of deep, dark slate colored velvet.

Cranberry Soup Pudding.

To one cupful of finely chopped sweet and one cupful of cooked cranberries (the berries must be very sweet), one cupful of molasses, three cupfuls of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and spices to taste, buttered baking powder can well pour the batter in the oven, tightly and hot in hot water glass hours; turn out the pudding when done by inverting the pan with a fork, cover with a hard sauce of butter and sugar. Good Literature.

Deviled Oysters.

Drain clean and chop 25 oysters, add half a cupful of cream, one tablespoonful of melted butter, two tablespoonfuls of Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper to taste, butter clean oyster shells or fancy baking dishes and fill with the deviled oysters, bake 20 minutes or until nicely browned.—People's Home Journal.

Apple Jelly.

Allow three-fourths of a pound of sugar to every pint of apple juice, and boil for 15 minutes. Flavor with either orange or lemon. Praline Farmer.

A COSMOPOLITAN DEMOCRACY.

Elements That Make Up the Mosaic World of the New York Stock Exchange.

In considering the exchange as a mimic world, we perceive that it is not only made up of men early trained in brokerage and banking, and of bright fellows that have won their seats by preliminary outside speculation, but it includes representatives of almost every trade and profession, some of them notably successful before entrance upon Wall Street life, writes Edmund Clarence Steadman, in "Life on the Floor." In Century. It is alleged that the board itself rarely graduates men who afterward attain distinction, but I do not enter upon that topic.

Two-thirds of the L. W. members are more or less wonted to the working hours upon it. Thomson, when asked if he had traveled, replied: "Yes, for years about Concord" but he could not there have found the diversity of origin and training that he would encounter in an hour on change, where men of so many nationalities, sects and grades of culture are packed together. Former merchants, manufacturers, politicians, art students, journalists, are to be found among them. The gold room boasted a clerkman for its chairman, who in time returned acceptably to his spiritual charge. There is a large contingent of country gentlemen, who stand for open air, broad acres and blooded stock at their beautiful homes in New Jersey and Long Island and beyond the Bronx.

Besides those brokers who, as I have said, have worked their way to membership, a percentage of university men is steadily increasing—some of the well-to-do who believe that a broadly disciplined mind is no hindrance to ultimate success. The room is curiously encyclopedic, and has included authorities on science and even Sanskrit. Its occupants come from many regions at home and abroad. There has always been a callant southern delegation, frank-spoken, open-handed, equal to any mood of fortune, and on the whole, to be classed among her favorites. The German outnumber any other foreign element, and pears any other suspect of being their own kind.

A man was adopted what all transactions should be made in English, and was thought to bear severely upon certain native-born members whose nouns and verbs were seldom in perfect accord. The bearing of the board members, as a whole, is not thought to be inferior to that of any similar class in the transaction world, and a comparison, in manners or attire, of the New York broker of duty with the typical London broker or jobber, on his way to Brighton or the races, can be made without injury to Yankee sensibilities.

One classification of the room assemblage is simple enough; it is composed of Gentiles and Israelites—the latter, with their peculiar genius, odd-dink fair to make, in time their numerical proportion conform to their surprising share of population and influence in the metropolis at large. Nor would the orator of the board be forgotten in the ranks of the classes at his tongue's end; a historic figure in the market's vicissitudes, and one of the trio still living who have held seats in congress as well as in the stock exchange. Here, too, awaiting their Ella are the Phisicians, the railroad troubleshooter and socialist, who like Fourier, adjusts himself to the present state of civilization; the sportsman, the sportsman of every stripe, the rambler and laborer of the war, the altruist to whom none has gone for aid in vain; the strong and dreaded mugger, who at least is no hypocrite, but waves on a declaration that he spares no debtor; the resolute, the silent man, the oracle, the wise, the artist, the musician, the tale-writer, and the poet.

Women in Prison.

The woman in prison is despised of her line features. The complete mortification of that harmless sort of vanity which fits so much of a woman's life makes her distance doubly vile. Her hair is shorn of its last lock, while the face that gazed with perfect passiveness at the judge who sentenced her is raised in piteous protest. When the hair grows longer again there is grimacing because a thoughtless administration provides no hairpins. One woman slumped the fat from her brow after it had cooled to glitter her crown of glory, an attendant relates. One girl, cajoled to the point of madness, certainly raved. Finally her secret was out. She had drawn some red threads from her skirt, chewed them to extract the color and used it on her lips and cheeks. The most oppressive penance is lack of mirrors. Still, there are no male agents around to break.—N. Y. Press.

Humor by Telegraph.

R. L. Vernon, a noted an experience which seems marvellous in the eyes of the uninitiated. A young operator from one of the stock broker's offices in that city originated a bright joke one morning, and when the time to New York was not busy put it on the wire for the delectation of the operator there, with whom he had often had long-sustained conversation by means of the Morse alphabet. Half an hour later a friend of his from an office across the street came in and sprung the same gag on him. He said that it was brand new, as he had heard it from New York not ten minutes before. Investigation showed that the New York operator had passed the joke along, and inside of an hour it had almost all over the country, and had come back to the originator.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

WILD GEESE IN COUNCIL.

Something Very Like Conversation Take Place During the Long Flight Southward.

A farmer in Clarendon county who went to a wheat stubble field at night to watch for bears was surprised the other day to find a large flock of wild geese feeding there. One bird was actually pecking away at an ear of corn upon the farmer's shelter, not a foot away from his hand, says a Lachine (Canada) report to the New York Sun.

Carefully thrusting his arm between the coarse stalks, he contrived to grasp the goose by the head and wring its neck before it had time to do more than set up a smothered squawking and flap its wings. He expected that his companions would have been frightened away, but when he crept out of the hiding place he saw a line of geese standing with outstretched necks as though inquiring: what was the cause of the commotion?

Carefully aiming at the bird nearest to him, he fired, and had the satisfaction of seeing it fall over with fluttering wings. A great crowd of geese immediately took wing, and with wonderful rapidity made off safely, though in a most disorderly manner. There were scores of the big birds in the field, and probably two or three flocks were holding a rendezvous there.

A similar circumstance was once noticed in Caswell township further to the north in the same county. In that instance four flocks convened amid the sheaves in a field of late wheat, and apparently spent the whole night in consultation.

In the partial moonlight which prevailed 80 geese were actually counted in a long single file, feeding in the stubble upon fallen ears of grain, and at times clustering together as though deliberating upon some important question. The gunners who saw this sight were able to kill only one of the birds.

As a rule, it is exceedingly uncommon to find these most wary of game birds on the land at all in these latitudes. The flocks which have been growing all summer since their hatching, in shallow lakes or inaccessible swamps in the far north rather together in flocks of 25 or 40 on some of the larger lakes at this time of the year, in preparation for their annual flight to the south.

Two spent in making short journeys to get into proper formation, the long journey begins, which, with only an occasional stop in some lake well stocked with food, lasts until the broad fields and bayous of the land of perpetual summer are reached.

Once the writer was privileged to witness a bit of a scrimmage among a lot of geese that had chosen a long bank of sand whereupon to settle their differences. So far as could be made out, it was a fight for supremacy among the males of the flock, and it lasted all one afternoon.

At last there was a tremendous hock-hocking of the geese, and after a good deal of conversation they arose, a confused flock, circled around and around the lake, and gradually rose to a height of probably a hundred feet, and, behold, as they cleared the tree tops, it was manifest that the leader had reduced them to the order, for they started away in two or three converging to the point of view, where the old leader formed the point of the wedge which was to break their flight through 5,000 miles of space.

It is occasionally appears that a male's method of leadership although victorious in the fight for supremacy over the other males, is not satisfactory as a director of the expedition. He may not have a good eye for the feeding places, or may be too much inclined to some pre-occupations, and may foster rebellion against his authority among the others.

When such emergencies arise the flock seeks some open place and there arranges the matter. Sometimes this is done peacefully by consultation, and the leader is soon on the wing again with rans intact. In the case of the birds seen in Caswell, about half the flock flew away first under their own leader, the others striking out for themselves a divergent course, both flocks shouting vigorously at each other as long as they were within hearing.

In another instance one large leader, probably a deposed leader, remained behind when the others sailed off. He was seen dejectedly moping about a little pond at the edge of a clearing for some days and one night was found along with the domestic geese of the farm, in the position of a docile follower of the fatter of the herd.

A hunterman who by a lucky shot brought down the leading underfound the deposed flock resting in a marsh two miles away and managed to bag two more of them during the four days they made the place their headquarters. During this time they were evidently endeavoring to find a leader among themselves, and experiencing much difficulty in securing the right one.

One morning another flock passed overhead, and one of the geese in the company of a peculiar penetrating cry. The others answered, wheeled about and pointed the wretched bird. Apparently they were petitioned to allow the disconsolate crowd to join their ranks, for after a day's rest, they all took flight toward the rallying point.

Far Behind the Times.

Mr. I probably wish you would tell Kathleen that she looks her years too much.

Mrs. Upjohn—You are three girls late, John. The name of the present one is Mollie. Norfolk Landmark.

Appropriate. Novelty Manufacturer. I am going to change the name of our new blotter from "Elite" to "Trust."

Friend—Why so?

"It's so absorbing, you know."—Chicago Daily News.